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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/057,280	01/25/2002	Karthik Janakiraman	016301-045500US	1879

32588 7590 10/08/2002

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
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SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

EXAMINER

LUND, JEFFRIE ROBERT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1763

DATE MAILED: 10/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/057,280

Applicant(s)

JANAKIRAMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrie R. Lund

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 28 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-18, 28, and 29, in Paper No. 5, mailed August 27, 2002, is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the rejection is improper in this case because (A) the claimed process cannot be practiced by another materially different apparatus, and (B) the apparatus cannot be used to practice another and materially different process. This is not found persuasive because the apparatus can be used to practice another and materially different process such as the method as claimed with the additional limits of depositing one or more layers of one or more specific materials and/or etching of the substrate to produce a specific device. A claim, such as this, is material different from the claimed method and the apparatus as claimed is capable of doing both.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 100 in figure 1 (see page 1 paragraph 3). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 7 line 25 reference number "466" should read -- 666 --.

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Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claims 1-3, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Drage, US Patent 4,590,042.

Drage teaches the claimed invention in the figures and throughout the specification.

6. Claims 1-3, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ikeda, JP Patent 1-294868.

Ikeda teaches the claimed invention in the abstract and figure 3.

7. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Umotoy et al, US Patent 6,302,965 B1.

Umotoy et al teaches the claimed invention in the figures and throughout the specification.

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8. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Park, US Patent Application 2002/0000196 A1

Park teaches the claimed invention in the figure 9 and page 3 paragraphs 42, and 44-46.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 12-18, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umotoy et al in view of Park.

Umotoy et al teaches a processing chamber that includes: walls 12, a processing gas supply, a wafer support 14, a showerhead 20 with an inlet portion 24 with aperture 30, 31, 32 and an outlet portion with a elongated slot 42, 44, 46 connected to the aperture. The elongated slot has a length of at least one-half a thickness of the face plate, is circular and continuous, and the width of the elongated slot is at least 2.25 times larger than the width of the aperture.

Umotoy et al differs from the present invention in that Umotoy et al does not teach a tapered face plate to improve the uniformity of the deposited layer.

Park teaches tapering a face plate to improve the uniformity of the deposited layer.

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The motivation for tapering the face plate is to improve the uniformity of the deposited layer as taught by Park (paragraph 46).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to taper the showerhead of Umotoy et al as taught by Park.

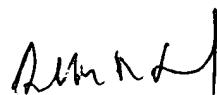
Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art teaches the technological background of the invention.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrie R. Lund whose telephone number is (703) 308-1796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (6:30 am-6:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Mills can be reached on (703) 308-1633. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



Jeffrie R. Lund
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1763

JRL
September 24, 2002